

Ferooz Cutter.

Midshipman Booth and 11 men.

Assaye Cutter.

Midshipman Scamp and 9 men.

Assistant-Surgeon Asher in medical charge of gun-boats and cutters from Ferooz.

Mr. Sims, 3rd Class Gunner of Ferooz, temporarily attached for the expedition to steamer Planet.

W. B. SELBY, Commander, I.N.,
Commanding Comet, and Surveyor in
Mesopotamia.

Ahwaz, River Karoon, April 3, 1857.

*Nominal Roll of Officers of Detachment, under
the Command of Captain G. H. Hunt, 78th
Highlanders.*

Her Majesty's 64th Regiment.

Captain Goode, Lieutenant Haldane, Ensign
Pack, Assistant-Surgeon Lundy.

78th Highlanders.

Captain Hunt, Captain McAndrew, Lieutenant
Cassidy, Lieutenant Finlay, Lieutenant Barker.

Detachment consisting of 300 men, being 150
from each of the above regiments.

G. H. HUNT, Captain, 78th Highlanders,
Commanding Detachment.

*Nominal Roll of Political and Staff Officers
present with the Detachment under Captain
Hunt, 78th Highlanders, in the advance upon
Ahwaz, on the 1st of April, 1857.*

Captain Kembell, Bombay Artillery, Political
Agent in Turkish Arabia.

Lord Schomberg H. Kerr, attached to the
Persian Mission.

Captain Wray, Deputy Quartermaster-General,
P.F.F.

Captain Malcolm Green, Scinde Horse.

Lieutenant Baigrie, Commissariat Department.

J. WRAY, Dep. Quartermaster-General.

Ahwaz, 3rd April, 1857.

*Captain J. Wray, Deputy Quartermaster-General,
P.F.F., to Colonel Lugard, C.B., Chief of
the Staff.*

SIR, *Camp, Mohumra, April 5, 1857.*

ACCORDING to the instructions received from you, I have the honor to forward the following report upon Ahwaz and the country in its vicinity, with a brief account of the military operations of the expedition.

Ahwaz is situated on the left bank of the Karoon River, at about 100 miles from its mouth. The town is in ruins, and not more than one-third of the houses appear to be occupied. There is no fort, or defences of any kind, beyond an old ruinous stone wall round part of it. The inhabitants number about 1,200, chiefly Arabs of the Chab tribes. Close to the town are two old broken-down bunds across the river, through which the water rushes with great rapidity; one of these is just opposite to the town, the other

considerably below it. These bunds are impassable for boats drawing more than a few feet water, and the strength of the current renders the passage of any boats a matter of great difficulty. Indeed, we did not ascertain satisfactorily that boats could pass at all. The river here is from 90 to 140 yards wide, and there are several low islands in the middle covered with low tamarisk jungle. The banks of the river are generally high, and the water so deep that our small steamers could lie close alongside. The country on the town side of the river is a bare plain, with very slight patches of cultivation here and there, and on the south-east side of the town is a range of sandstone hills, perfectly bare. The country on the opposite side of the river is much the same, a barren plain without a tree, and the most desolate looking place imaginable. A few hundred yards above the bank is a ridge, which, when we approached Ahwaz, we found occupied by the Persian army. The river passes round this point, rendering the position very strong; but, at the same time, a force driven out of it by an enemy attacking at A, and being obliged to embark and retire down the river in boats or small steamers, would be exposed to the fire of batteries or musketry from the river banks, from any point which an active enemy might select. The advantages of this site for a cantonment, are, first, that our commissariat and stores coming by land from Mohumra could join our camp without having to cross the river; second, the strength of the position.

It is impossible to form any idea of the healthiness of this place. There had been a good deal of rain when we were there, and the surface of the ground was very heavy; but there is no reason to suppose that troops stationed here would be otherwise than healthy. At present the climate is very pleasant—the mornings delightful, and the days, though warm, quite bearable. The Arabs furnished us with sheep in abundance, milk, ghee, &c.

The Karoon river has already been reported on by Captain Selby, and I found the map drawn up by that officer perfectly correct. The river is generally from 90 to 180 yards wide, a fine stream with very rapid current; the banks for the first few miles after leaving Mohumra, covered with date trees, afterwards with cypress or dwarf poplar jungle, for a hundred yards or so from the water's edge—the interior a barren desert. We passed a few Arab villages on the left bank at long intervals, and anchored for the night at two of them to get supplies. Excepting here, we did not see a single soul the whole way; the country on the right bank appears to be an uninhabited wilderness.

The operations against the enemy were conducted as follows—under the orders of Captain Rennie, I.N.

At 3 A.M., 1 April, our little fleet left Kost Oomarra, an Arab village on the left bank, where we had remained during the night. Soon after daylight, we came in sight of Ahwaz, and found the Persian army collected behind a ridge on the right bank—crowds of horsemen, apparently some guns on the ridge, and infantry innumerable. Anchored at one and a half miles from the place. Some horsemen came down, but a rifle shot sent them off at full gallop, and no one attempted to come very near again. Heard from the Arabs that Ahwaz was not occupied, and that the troops that had been there had gone up the river the day before, frightened by the appearance of our steamers, and that nothing now remained but 30 horsemen;